

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 07105 100925Z

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ACTION EA-09

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P R 100825Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5467

INFO DEPT OF INTERIOR RECLAMATION DIV FOREIGN ACTIV-
ITIES WASHDC

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INTERIOR FOR BEBB/BUREC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, MY

SUBJECT: BUREC TECH TEAM PRIVILIGES AND IMMUNITIES

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 7000

1. DCM AND BUREC TEAM LEADER DAVIS ATTENDED DECEMBER 10 MEETING CITED REFTL. DID DIRECTOR, JOHN DANIELS, ON EVE OF RETIREMENT) MADE SURPRISE APPEARANCE, CHAIRED MEETING, AND DOMINATED GOM SIDE. RESULTS WERE NOT CONCLUSIVE BUT (AS ALWAYS) PROMISING. DANILS MAD SHOW OF BEING VERY TOUGH BUT IN END AGREED TO FORMULA IN WHICH USG AND GOM FOR THE MOMENT AGREED TO DISAGREE ON "PRINCIPLE" INVOLVED IN QUESTION OF WHETHER MEMBERS OF BUREC TEAM ENTITLED TO SAME TREATMENT AS OTHER NON-DIPLOMATIC STAFF OF AMERICAN MISSION IN MALAYSIA WHILE ALL OUT EFFORT MADE TO RESOLVE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS. WE WERE ABLE TO SOLVE ALL PRACTICAL PROBLEMS EXCEPT THOSE OF VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES, INCLUDING ROAD TAXES (BIG ITEM) AND TRANSFER FEES. PROPOSAL NOW IS THAT MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE REIMBURSE TEAM MEMBERS OFR THESE FEES. IT SEEMS THAT THIS CAN BE DONE IF MINISTRY OF FINANCE AGREES. TWO MINISTRY OF FINANCE OFFICIALS TOOK PART IN DISCUSSION AND APPEARED FAVORABLE DISPOSED. QUICK ANSWER HAS BEEN PROMISED.

2. ABOVE IS BRIEF SUMMATION OF HOUR AND A HALF MEETING

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COMPLETE WITH POSTURING AND HISTRIONICS. IT CLEAR THAT

DANIEL'S EGO HEAVILY INVOLVED, BUT THAT ON BALANCE GOM
VERY MUCH WANTS TEAM TO STAY. (INTERESTINGLY, GOM MINISTRY
LEAVE CONCERNED WHETHER TEAM STAYS OR GOES IS MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHICH DISPOSED TO TAKE HARD LINE.) IN
ANY EVENT, WE HAVE GIVEN GOM (AND DANIELS) A WAY OUT IF THEY
WILL TAKE IT.

3. WE REGRET VERY MUCH THE INCONVENIENCE CAUSED HOLMES
AND ANY OTHERS, BUT CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT WE SIT SIGHT
FOR THE MOMENT. WE WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED TO LET DECEMBER
28 DEADLINE SLIP BY A FEW DAYS IF THAT SEEMED NECESSARY.
IN MEANTIME, WHILE WE ARE AWAITING WORD, DAVIS
WILL TRY TO GET QUICKEST PRELIMINARY READING POSSIBLE THROUGH
ACTING DIR. L.L. PANG WHO SEEMS MOST EAGER TO SEE MATTER
RESOLVED SATISFACTORILY.
UNDERHILL

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